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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|                 |   |                      |               |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|---------------|
| Application of: | FERNANDEZ                                     | Confirmation No.:    | 3533          |
| Serial No.:     | 10/763,689                                    | Art Unit:            |               |
| Filed:          | January 26, 2004                              | Examiner:            |               |
| For:            | VARIABLE ANGLE LOCKED BONE<br>FIXATION SYSTEM | Attorney Docket No.: | 8932-1090-999 |

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above identified application, please enter the following amendments and consider the remarks below.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.